

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 AGR-05 AGRE-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 COME-00 OES-06 IO-13 /077 W

----- 054151

R 231015Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7658

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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YAOUNDE FOR RDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ECON, CT, US

SUBJECT: CAR REQUESTS FOR AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

SUMMARY: THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER FOR PARTY AFFAIRS SEPARTELY ASKED ME FOR ASSISTANCE FOR CAR AGRICULTURE THIS WEEK. THE MINISTER FOR PARTY AFFAIRS PUT HIS REQUEST IN TERMS OF A GOCAR DECISION TO USE THE PARTY AS PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENT IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER MADE NO MENTION OF THIS BUT ASKED FOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT FOR TWO SPECIFIC PROJECTS. I NOTED IN RESPONSE TO BOTH THAT US HAD PARALLEL INTEREST IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND I REPORTED PLANNED VISIT IN NOVEMBER OF AID/RDO/YAOUNDE TEAM TO DEVELOP NEW PROJECTS END SUMMARY.

1. ON SEPTEMBER 20 I WAS CALLED TO MEET JOAQUIM DA-SILVA N'ZENGUN, MINISTER OF STAE CHARGED WITH STIMULATION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (I.E. FUNCTIONAL HEAD OF THE CAR'S SOLE POLITICAL PARTY, MESAN), AND ON SEPTEMBER 22, I WAS SIMILARLY CALLED IN TO SEE ANGE PATASSE, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL  
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WITH RANK OF PRIME MINISTER. THE MAJOR TOPIC OF CONVER-

SATION IN BOTH CASES WAS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CAR AND US ASSISTANCE THERETO. ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER GBEZERA BRIA SAT IN IN BOTH CASES. FOREIGN MINISTER FRANCK PARTICIPATED IN MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. DA SILVA: LAUNCHING INTO A LONG AND APPARENTLY WELL REHEARSED SERMON, DA-SILVA INFORMED ME THAT GOCAR HAD DECIDED TO USE THE MESAN PARTY STRUCTURE AS THE PRIME FORCE BEHIND THE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT IN THE CAR. BASED UPON THE NEW FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG-RANGE GOALS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE PARTY. WORKING ON AN INTER-MINISTERIAL LEVEL, MESAN WOULD TRY TO CREATE A DECENTRALIZED DEVELOPMENT EFFORT WITH PERHAPS ONE HUNDRED DEVELOPMENT CENTERS IN EACH COMMUNE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. EMPHASIS WOULD BE PLACED ON THE RURAL SECTOR WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COOPERATIVES, SCHOOLS, DISPENSARIES, ETC. REGARDING THE PRODUCTIVE SECTOR, MESAN WOULD CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES IN TROPICAL AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK BREEDING, AND PISCICULTURE, AND WOULD ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SIMPLE MANUFACTURING IN RURAL SECTORS. DA-SILVA NOTED THAT THESE GENERAL GOALS WERE CONSISTENT WITH HIS IMPRESSIONS OF USMAID OBJECTIVES IN THE CAR, AND HE REQUESTED BILATERAL ASSISTANCE IN TERMS OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE, CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE, AND PROVISION OF SUPPORT MATERIALS FOR THE PARTY'S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.

3. DA-SILVA ALSO REQUESTED US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE PREPARATION OF PROJECT DESIGN PAPERS FOR A NUMBER OF AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN THE AREAS OF LIVESTOCK, COFFEE, SUGAR AND TOBACCO PROCESSING. GIVEN US TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN THESE FIELDS, HE FELT PROJECTS WOULD BE MORE PROFESSIONALLY PREPARED AND BETTER RECEIVED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS IF USG WERE INVOLVED IN PROJECT DESIGN.

4. BOTH DA-SILVA AND GBEZERA BRIA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE INCREASED INTEREST OF THE US IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN GENERAL AND FOR OUR AID TO THE CAR. IN PARTICULAR, GBEZERA BRIA PRAISED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIALOGUES BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES AND THE US, AND FOR HIS ATTEMPT TO MEDIATE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

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YAOUNDE FOR RDO

5. PATASSE: PATASSE MADE NO MENTION OF A GOVERNMENTAL DECISION TO PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON THE PARTY BUT INSTEAD PRESENTED A STRAIGHT-FORWARD PITCH FOR HELP IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRIME MINISTER. HE BASED HIS REQUEST ON NEED TO TRAIN AND THEN EMPLOY THE MANY YOUNG PEOPLE UNABLE TO CONTINUE BEYOND THE SIXTH GRADE IN SCHOOL. TO THIS END, GOCAR WANTED HEAVY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING FOUR D-8 CATERPILLARS AND OTHER EARTH-MOVING MACHINERY, TO CLEAR LAND IN M'BAIKI AREA, WHICH WOULD BE USED TO TRAIN STUDENTS IN COFFEE PRODUCTION. IT ALSO NEEDED EQUIPMENT FOR 200-MEMBER BOALI COOPERATIVE, WHICH WAS MORE DIVERSIFIED ENTERPRISE AND WHICH WAS INTENDED AS PILOT FOR OTHER PRODUCER-COOPERATIVES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. PATASSE RETURNED TO THE PROBLEM OF EMPLOYING RURAL YOUTH AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

6. I REPLIED ALONG THE SAME LINES TO BOTH MINISTERS. THEIR INTERESTS WERE ESSENTIALLY IN LINE WITH AID GOALS FOR THE CAR, WHICH STRESSED IMPROVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, NUTRITION AND EDUCATION FOR RURAL POPULATIONS. BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, WE EXPECTED TO SIGN THE 300 MILLION CFA OUHAM RURAL HEALTH PROJECT. WE WISHED TO BEGIN THE

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PROCESS OF DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL PROJECTS IN RECOGNITION OF MUTUAL CAR/US POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS. RESPONDING TO THE SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE, I COMMENTED THAT A TEAM OF AID EXPERTS FROM YAOUNDE WAS EXPECTED TO VISIT BANGUI AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER TO INVESTIGATE EXPANDED AID POSSIBILITIES IN THE CAR AND THAT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS COULD BE BEST DISCUSSED THEN.

7. COMMENT: THE TWO APPROACHES WERE NOT ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WE MAY NOT KNOW THE REAL STORY UNTIL THE AID TEAM COMES FOR DISCUSSIONS IN NOVEMBER. DA-SILVA'S PRESENTATION WAS THE FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE HAD OF THE TRANSFER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PARTY, AND PATASSE'S PRESENTATION PUTS IN DOUBT TO WHAT EXTENT THIS HAS ACTUALLY OCCURRED. SUCH A TRANSFER WOULD CREATE A MORE FUNCTIONAL ROLE FOR THE PARTY, WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE EFFORT UNDERWAY SINCE JULY 24 TO CREATE A NEW PARTY IMAGE, BUT IT WOULD ALSO RESULT IN EVEN MORE DUPLICATION AND INCONSISTENCY IN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. TO THE EXTENT THAT IT WAS IMPLEMENTED, IT WOULD INVOLVE MORE LOW-LEVEL RURAL OFFICIALS IN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

8. THE EXPLICIT OR IMPLICIT EMPHASIS ON YOUTH IN BOTH PRESENTATIONS MAY REFLECT A REACTION TO PRESSURE FROM THAT QUARTER. PATASSE WAS MOST EXPLICIT, BUT DA-SILVA'S PRESENTATION ALSO POINTED IN THE SAME DIRECTION IN THAT A MAJOR EMPHASIS OF THE PARTY REORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ON THE NEED TO MAKE MESAN A YOUNGER AND MORE VIGOROUS BODY.

9. BOTH APPROACHES APPEAR TO BE PART OF A CONCERTED EFFORT BY EACH MINISTER TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL AID FROM SEVERAL DONORS. DA-SILVA SKILLFULLY TAILORED HIS APPROACH TO OUR INTERESTS. NONETHELESS, THE IDEA OF DECENTRALIZATION AND GREATER INVOLVEMENT AT THE RURAL LEVEL DOES APPEAR TO BE CONSISTENT WITH AID GOALS AND MAY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROJECTS. PATASSE'S REQUEST WAS MORE SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED TOWARDS EQUIPMENT, BUT HIS INTEREST IN COOPERATIVES MAY OFFER OPPORTUNITIES. (PATASSE IS A SUCCESSFUL FARMER HIMSELF.) WE SHOULD BE PREPARED DURING THE NOVEMBER AID DISCUSSION TO DISCUSS THESE PROPOSALS AND ALSO TO CONSIDER DA-SILVA'S REQUEST FOR PROJECT DESIGN TEAMS, WHICH MAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROVIDE US WITH A MEANS OF BEING HELPFUL WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT OF FOLLOW-ON FINANCING.  
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## Message Attributes

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